(d) to (0 At present there is no natural gas or pipeline infrastructure available for setting up CNG stations in Chhattisgarh. CNG will be progressively introduced in polluted cities, including these in Chhattisgarh, with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas, and also subject to economic viability.

Tax on Petroleum Products

f179. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of taxation on petroleum products in the country is more than that of other South Asian Countries;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the names of the South Asian countries where tax rate on petrol and diesel is lower than in India?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The tax component in the price of petrol and diesel in India is higher than some other South Asian countries. The details are as under:—

	Petrol (%of tax to total price)	Diesel (%of tax to total price)
India	57	35
Sri Lanka	37	20
Thailand	24	15

Oil Prices in International Market

t180. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had increased the consumer

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sale price of petrol and diesel in the country in the mid of June, 2005;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the price rise was the result of taxation imposed on petroleum products in the Annual Budget for the year 2005-06 alongwith the increase in the price of crudes in international market; and

(c) if so, the extent of increase effected in the price of petrol and diesel as a result of above reasons?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Considering the impact of spiraling international oil prices, changes in the duty structure and quality upgradation of fuels, the Government, keeping in view the interest of the consumers, have limited the increase in petrol and diesel to Rs. 2.50/litre and Rs. 2.00/litre respectively at Delhi with effect from the midnight of 20th/ 21st June 2005 with corresponding increase in other States/UTs, although, in terms of the international prices of these products, the required increase was Rs. 4.68/litre in petrol and Rs. 5.13/litre in diesel.

Fixation of Oil Prices

t181**.** SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been estimated that the basic price (production price) of petrol and diesel is Rs. 17.51 per litre and Rs. 18.53 per litre respectively;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that petrol and diesel are sold at much higher price than the above mentioned price to general consumer of the country;

(d) if so, the details regarding maximum and minimum prices for the same; and

(e) the reasons for so much difference in production cost and selling price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR): (a) to (c) The basic price of petrol and diesel in Delhi exclusive of duties and taxes is Rs. 17.40 and Rs. 18.42 respectively. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.